

Details at a glance:

Location

Sofia

Dates

21-25 May 2018

Working Language

English

Selection Criteria

You should be a doctoral researcher, post-doc or early career researcher, working on aspects of climate change from a theoretical or applied perspective. We also invite young practitioners from think tanks, government agencies, international organizations or the private sector who are seeking to enhance their portfolio of projects by understanding the assessment of extreme climate change. Participants are welcome from natural and social sciences, as we want to have transdisciplinary working. Selection will be made on academic grounds on the basis of a CV and an application letter (1 page).

Participants

The number of participants for the residential part of the course is limited to 30 persons.

Application

Please submit applications by 30 September 2017.

Course Fee

No fee. The course & accommodation are financially supported by the EU FP7 project IMPRESSIONS. Participants are expected to fund their own travel costs.

Summer school tutors will include

Dr Paula Harrison (Project Co-ordinator), Dr Niki Frantzeskaki, Prof Ian Holman, Dr Jill Jäger, Prof László Pinter, Prof Mark Rounsevell and Dr Andrea Roventini

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SUMMER SCHOOL

EXPLORING CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS IN THE REAL WORLD: FROM RESEARCH TO PRACTICE.



21-25 MAY

2018

SOFIA

BULGARIA

IMPRESSIONS aims to advance understanding of the implications of high-end climate change, involving temperature increases above 2°C, and to help decision-makers apply such knowledge within adaptation and mitigation strategies.

The aim of this summer school is to introduce IMPRESSIONS methods and tools so as to demonstrate their applications through studying the impacts of climate change and socio-economic changes in Bulgarian mountains and rural communities.



The project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement No 603416

Designed to combine theory and methods with practical exercises and a field excursion to witness adaptation issues in person, this summer school will provide participants with a unique opportunity to work together on solving a specified climate-related challenge with leading scientific experts and local stakeholders applying methodologies and models developed within IMPRESSIONS. The summer school focuses in particular on how inter- and transdisciplinary research methods combine to develop practical climate solutions.

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
MORNING	<p>Welcome Introduction to location and possible challenges Introduction to IMPRESSIONS</p> <p>What could a future above 2°C look like?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate projections 	<p>How can a sustainable world be achieved?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity - Actions, strategies and pathways - Modelling adaptation and pathways 	Field trip	<p>What are the solutions?</p> <p>Solving a particular challenge using IMPRESSIONS tools, including a range of impact models</p> <p>Practical exercise</p>	<p>What are synergies and trade-offs of different policy options?</p> <p>Identification of synergies and trade-offs; cross-scale interactions and policy options</p> <p>Discussion with stakeholders</p>
	Lunch	Lunch		Lunch	Lunch
AFTERNOON	<p>What could a future above 2°C look like (cont.)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Socio-economic scenarios <p>What do we want the future to look like?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visions 	<p>What are the opportunities & risks?</p> <p>Uncertainty</p> <p>How to undertake transdisciplinary research?</p>		<p>How to effectively communicate research results?</p> <p>Effective research communication</p> <p>Production of two communication outputs.</p>	Depart
	<p>Short talks from participants on their experience of solutions to challenges.</p> <p>Buffet dinner</p>	<p>Preparatory talk for field trip.</p> <p>Social activities</p>		<p>Reflection on using IMPRESSION approaches and outputs</p> <p>Social activities</p>	

Excursion

During our summer school, we will visit some of the highest parts of Rila Mountain reaching as high as 2000m, trek in the sub-alpine parts, observing local environmental conditions and meet locals (e.g. rangers, conservationists, people from local businesses) to discuss their experience of climate change. Participants will make use of the information in diagnosing vulnerability and studying adaptation options using IMPRESSIONS tools and methods.

Background

Approximately one third of the territory of Bulgaria is taken up by forty low to high mountains, with eight peaks higher than 2000m. In addition to their pristine beauty, these mountains are home to a high number of endemic and endangered species. The mountainous areas provide shelter, water, food and recreational services to many Bulgarians and visitors.

Challenges

Climate change is already affecting the mountains of Bulgaria. Data from the past 7 years show a 1-1.5°C average temperature increase compared to 1969. Observations by the Pirin National Park administration show upward migration of mountain pine. Tree-line migration has also been detected in other Bulgarian mountains. These data indicate that Bulgarian mountains are undergoing change.

The impact of higher-end climate change on biodiversity, hydrology, water management, forestry, agriculture, land use, population as well as on rural communities and tourism in these areas is unclear. The potential severity of impacts and the complex socio-economic situation call for careful assessment that directly supports the development of strategies and solutions for adaptation and sustainable resource use.